Hand-crafts

* 89 *Q.*—Sri A. A. RASHEED: Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to abolish the pulling of hand-carts in the Madras City?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: No, Sir.

Sri A. A. RASHEED: Is the Hon. Minister aware that human beings are treated as beasts of burden in Madras City?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Yes, Sir. The Government are quite well aware of it. But there will arise the question of unemployment of all these people, if pulling of hand-carts is absolutely prohibited.

Use of pneumatic tyres for bullock carts

* 90 *Q.*—Sri A. A. RASHEED: Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state whether there is any proposal for the compulsory use of pneumatic tyres for bullock carts?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: No, Sir.

Sri A. A. RASHEED: Is the Hon. Minister aware that damage is caused to State and other roads by the bullock carts because they have iron clad wheels?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: The Government are, no doubt aware of the fact that the roads are more easily damaged by iron-wheeled carts. But it is not practicable to compel the bullock carts to have pneumatic tyres. But there is a proposal at the instance of the Government of India and the Chief Engineer for Highways has been asked to conduct a pilot scheme in this regard.

Slum improvement

* 91 *Q.*—Sri V. K. KOTHANDARAMAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount allotted by the Central Government and the State Government for the years 1956–57 and 1957–58 for slum improvement; and

(*b*) out of these, the amount allotted for each municipality?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN: (*a*) For 1956–57, no amount was allotted for slum improvement. For 1957–58, a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs was allocated for slum improvement work under the Slum clearance scheme of the Government of India.

(*b*) In view of the limited allocation of funds, it has been decided to confine slum improvement work to Madras City only. Hence, no amount was allotted for the municipalities in the mufussal areas.